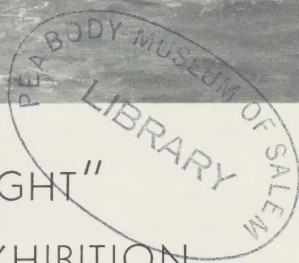




Westward — 1927



"SAILOR'S DELIGHT"  
A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION  
OF MARINE PAINTINGS

BY

JOHN PRENTISS BENSON

1865-1947

March 23rd to May 26th 1968

THE PEABODY MUSEUM  
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

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1968

## JOHN P. BENSON

1865-1947

John Prentiss Benson was born in Salem, Massachusetts, February 8, 1865, the son of George E. and Elizabeth (Poole) Benson. Mr. Benson had a seafaring ancestry, and as a youth found an outlet for his impulses by copying the paintings by Roux of Marseilles. Among two of these were his grandfather's ships, the "Reaper" and the "Eliza and Mary." His summers were spent in cruising along the New England coast where he studied and absorbed the everchanging waters and shipping. All his pictures were painted in his studio where he was able to recapture from memory the moods and wonderful motion of the sea. He made many of the frames, often with carved designs.

His older brother, Frank W. Benson, had already embarked on his career as an artist, when the time came for John to earn a living. His father persuaded him to turn to architecture as he could "only support one artist." He studied at the Academie des Beaux Arts in Paris, before working in Boston and New York. With his wife, Sarah Whitman, and their four children, they lived in Plainfield, New Jersey, and then Flushing, Long Island. Having painted for years in his spare time and on weekends, he moved to Kittery, Maine, in 1924, where, with his brother Frank's encouragement, he devoted his full efforts to painting. By then his pictures were very much in demand and he found he could make a living as an artist at last.

The museum of Natural History in New York commissioned him to paint eight murals of American Sperm Whaling Scenes for their Hall of Ocean Life. Four of these lunette studies are in this exhibition. His pictures incorporate the sea coasts of New England down to Bermuda, as well as foreign shores. He had many exhibitions, became a member of the Boston Guild of Artists, and won several awards, among them the Richard Mitton Award of the 1937 Jordan Marsh Show. Examples of his work are to be found in museums and institutions throughout the country. He painted up until his death in 1947.



## CATALOGUE

- |     |   |                                 |      |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|------|
| 1.  | Collision Course .....                                | Oil                             |      |
| 2.  | Captain Samuel Benson (artist unknown) .....          | Oil                             |      |
| 3.  | "Reaper" (top picture) copied by J.P.B. ....          | Watercolor                      |      |
| 4.  | "Reaper" (bottom picture) by Antoine Roux, fils ..... | Watercolor                      |      |
| 5.  | The Seven Seas .....                                  | Oil                             |      |
| 6.  | Rocks at York .....                                   | Oil                             |      |
| 7.  | Halfway Rock .....                                    | Oil                             |      |
| 8.  | Westward .....  | Oil                             |      |
| 9.  | Down East with a Fair Wind and Tide .....             | Oil                             |      |
| 10. | Derby Wharf .....                                     | Oil                             |      |
| 11. | Conquest .....  | Oil                             |      |
| 12. | Fishing Fleet .....                                   | Oil                             |      |
| 13. | Large study for lunette series .....                  | Oil                             |      |
| 14. | } Small studies for series of eight lunettes —        |                                 |      |
| 15. |   | one unmatted and unframed ..... | Oils |
| 16. |   |                                 |      |
| 17. | Rum Row .....   | Oil                             |      |
| 18. | Evening .....   | Oil                             |      |
| 19. | Galleon .....   | Oil                             |      |
| 20. | Coming Breeze .....                                   | Oil                             |      |
| 21. | The Flagship .....                                    | Oil                             |      |
| 22. | Black Schooner .....                                  | Oil                             |      |
| 23. | Alde River .....                                      | Oil                             |      |
| 24. | Coal Wharf .....                                      | Oil                             |      |
| 25. | Captain John Bubier Prentiss .....                    | Oil                             |      |
| 26. | Self Portrait (on artist's easel) .....               | Oil                             |      |
| 27. | Manassah Cutler copied by J.P.B. ....                 | Oil                             |      |
| 28. | Nantucket .....                                       | Oil                             |      |

